

Mark-- sorry this took a while. It's been a hectic week...

I can send some questions, but I really hope I can get on the phone with one of your experts to talk this through. So, here goes:

We are in the midst of an ongoing public comment and pending independent review process focused on the draft report. As such we are referring reporters to the draft report itself and the information available at <http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/wy/pavillion/>

1. In the draft report, you conclude, ``the data indicates likely impact to ground water that can be explained by hydraulic fracturing." In the congressional hearing, though, Mr. Martin seemed to walk back from that. Is that still your understanding of those earlier results? Was that result based on tests in just the two test wells, or also from wells at homes or farms?

EPA stands behind the draft report, which is based on an assessment of data from Pavillion area wells and outlines preliminary findings based on that data. The draft report focuses on data collected from two deep monitoring wells installed by EPA in 2010, and references additional information collected from shallow monitoring and domestic wells in the area. The report, along with additional data now being collected from the monitoring wells in coordination with USGS, the tribes and the State of Wyoming, will be subject to a public comment and independent review process.

2. Are your new tests the EPA and state are doing now just of those two test wells, or also of the wells at homes/farms?

EPA is coordinating with USGS, the tribes, and the State of Wyoming on resampling the deep monitoring wells. The purpose of this sampling is to gather more information about the site and provide additional data from the monitoring wells for consideration by the peer review panel for EPA's Draft Report on the Pavillion groundwater investigation. EPA is also separately resampling nearby domestic wells. We expect data will be available later this summer or early fall.

3. The draft report refers to finding ``diesel range organics" in some water. What could explain that? There wasn't oil drilling nearby, right? Was this diesel used in the frac job?

Sampling results and a discussion of DRO and GRO can be found on page 35 and 36 of the draft report. The use of diesel in the Pavillion field is also discussed.

4. One lawmaker said that the EPA may have contaminated the wells in taking out the water. Have you discovered any evidence of that?

No. EPA conducted confirmation sampling and analysis to ensure that contamination of the monitoring wells did not occur during the drilling process or well development.

5. For the folks living in the town on Pavillion, I was told that their water was cleared, and no new contamination is expected because Pavillion is upstream of the drilling. Is that so?

EPA's primary concern is groundwater contamination in the area east of Pavillion's municipal wells. Water from Pavillion's public water supply is treated and monitored regularly under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

6. What is your standing recommendation for the houses located closer to the wells? Should they still get water shipped in and vent their showers?

Health-based recommendations for domestic use and showering (for those homes with high methane) were issued by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, part of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, in the fall of 2010. Those recommendations are still in effect.

7. I am not sure if you guys have this information, but do you know how many instances of fracing there were in that area? Someone had told me there was only one well fracked there, but the report seems to indicate many instances of it.

The best sources for specific information on the number of hydraulic fracturing jobs that have been conducted in the area would be the State of Wyoming or EnCana. There have been many occurrences of the practice in the Pavillion field.

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